

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 04790 100332Z
ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT THROUGHOUT)

E.O. 01652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, KS, US
SUBJECT: TROOP WITHDRAWAL CONSULTATIONS

SUMMARY: THERE APPEARS TO BE MINOR MISUNDERSTANDING ON
ROK SIDE ABOUT WHEN TO PROCEED WITH CONSULTATIONS
IN WAKE OF BROWN/HABIB VISIT. I BELIEVE WE HAVE BEEN ABLE
TO CLEAR IT UP AND WILL BE ABLE TO PROCEED WITH DISCUSSIONS OF
COMBINED COMMAND AND COMPENSATORY MEASURES ALREADY IN FACT
UNDERWAY PLUS INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF POINTS TO BE INCLUDED
IN COMMUNIQUE. END SUMMARY.

1. BLUE HOUSE PROTOCOL SECRETARY CHOI KWAN SOO INDICATED TO
MORT ABRAMOWITZ JUNE 7 THAT ROKG WAS AWAITING SOME FURTHER
WORD FROM WASHINGTON BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH TROOP WITHDRAWAL
CONSULTATIONS. NEXT DAY, JUNE 8, I TOLD CHOI I THOUGHT
WE COULD AND IN FACT WERE PROCEEDING WITH DISCUSSION OF
COMBINED COMMAND, AND COMPENSATORY MEASURES, WITH MND OFFICIALS.
IN JUNE 9 CONVERSATION, HOWEVER, FOREIGN MINISTER PAK
AGAIN RAISED QUESTION AS TO WHEN WE SHOULD PROCEED. HE
POINTED OUT THERE WAS LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE BETWEEN
NOW AND SCM AND SAID BLUE HOUSE AS WELL AS MOFA HAD BEEN
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UNDER IMPRESSION GENERAL BROWN AND UNDER SECRETARY HABIB
WOULD REPORT TO PRESIDENT CARTER, THEN ON BASIS PRESIDENTIAL
DECISIONS, CONSULTATIONS WOULD PROCEED; WAS THIS CORRECT?

2. I TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THERE WERE SUGGESTIONS
WHICH PRESIDENT PAK HAD MADE TO BROWN/HABIB INCLUDING
CONFIGURATION OF SECOND AND THIRD WITHDRAWAL

INCREMENTS, U.S. AIR FORCE INCREASE, AND EXEMPTION FOR ROK FROM ARMS SALES POLICY WHICH REQUIRED PRESIDENT CARTER'S CONSIDERATION PRIOR TO FURTHER DISCUSSION. THERE WERE THREE OTHER QUESTIONS, HOWEVER, REGARDING FUTURE COMMAND STRUCTURE, COMPENSATORY MEASURES AND LANGUAGE FOR SCM COMMUNIQUE, WITH WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO PROCEED. WE WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ELICITING FROM ROKG WHAT THEY SAW AS FIRE POWER REQUIREMENT TO REPLACE SECOND DIVISION. I INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTER THAT IN FACT DEPUTY UN COMMANDER AND STAFF DIRECTOR OF ROK JCS ALREADY HAD BEGUN DISCUSSIONS ON TWO MILITARY MATTERS.

3. PAK THEN ACKNOWLEDGED THERE HAD BEEN SOME MINSUNDERSTANDING ON ROK SIDE ABOUT OUR DESIRE TO PROCEED FORTHWITH ON THESE THREE LATTER MATTERS. HE ASKED ME IF I WOULD GIVE HIM A LETTER PROPOSING THAT WE PROCEED WITH CONSULTATION ON COMPENSATORY MEASURES, COMMAND STRUCTURE AND LANGUAGE FOR DIPLOMATIC COMMUNIQUE. I SAID THAT THIS SEEMED OVERLY FORMAL AND UNNECESSARY PROCEDURE, THAT MY ORAL AFFIRMATION SHOULD SUFFICE. RELECTANTLY FORNMIN APPEARED TO ACCEPT THIS, SAID HE WOULD BRING IT TO PRESIDENT PAK'S ATTENTION, AND INDICATED HE WOULD BE BACK TO ME.

4. COMMENT: AS INDICATED, UNC IS IN FACT ALREADY UNDERWAY WITH DISCUSSIONS ON COMBINED COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS AND COMPENSATORY MEASURES; ALSO POLCOUNS HAS ALREADY HAD INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH MOFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR PAK SANG-YONG ABOUT GETTING TOGETHER ON POINTS
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TO BE INCLUDED ON SCM COMMUNIQUE. THUS QUESTIONING ABOUT WHETHER AND HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED IN THESE AREAS WAS SOMEWHAT PUZZLING. I BELIEVE, AS FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED, THERE WAS PROBABLY ELEMENT OF MISUNDERSTANDING; AT SAME TIME THERE MAY BE A LITTLE NEGOTIATING MANEUVERING GOING ON HERE. IN ANY EVENT, BELIEVE MY EXPLANATION TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS CLEAR ENOUGH AND HOPEFULLY IN NEXT DAY OR SO WE SHOULD HAVE AUTHORIZATION FROM THE HIGHEST LEVELS ON ROK SIDE TO DO WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN DOING.
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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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